



# The Journal

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February 13, 2014

## Active Shooter Drill to Occur Feb. 27



Security measures at Naval Support Activity Bethesda and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center will be tested during the Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield anti-terrorism exercise on Feb. 27.

**By Sarah Marshall**  
WRNMMC Public Affairs  
staff writer

To ensure preparedness and to test response efforts, Walter Reed Bethesda will participate in a Code White (Active Shooter) Drill on Feb. 27. The drill will take place in conjunction with an annual Navy-wide anti-terrorism exercise, Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield (SC/CS).

On Feb. 18, SC/CS will begin on-board Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) with a series of anti-terrorism force protection exercises throughout the installation, and will culminate with an Active Shooter response drill, Feb. 27. Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) will participate in the exercise, along with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and Navy Medicine Professional Development Center. Code White is the hospital emergency code to notify personnel of an active shooter and to take shelter-in-place precautions. Installation personnel will also hear an announcement of "Active Shooter/Shelter-in-Place," via the 'Giant Voice' speaker system and other communication tools.

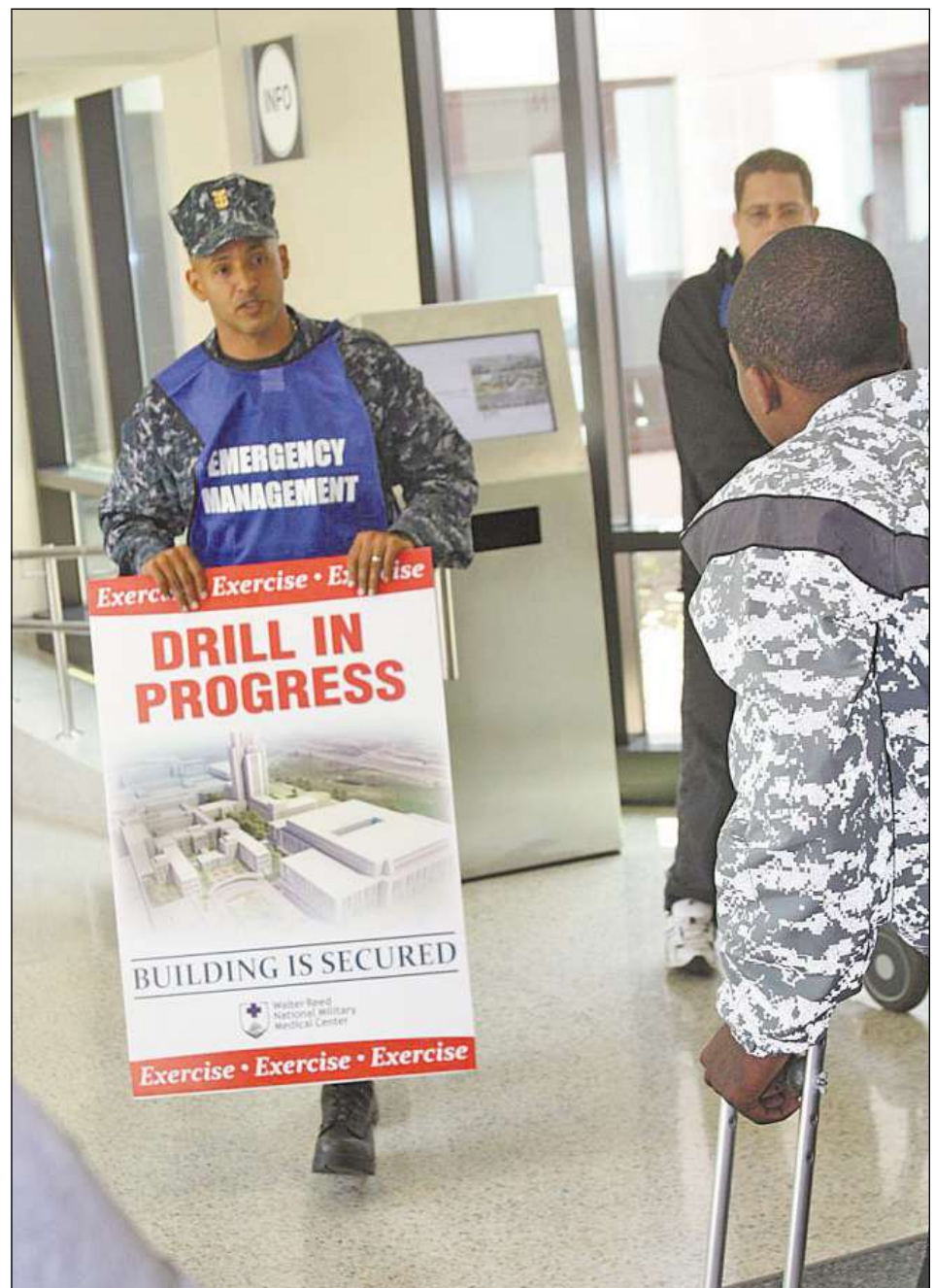
"We're always trying to prepare and train for something that may or may

not happen," said Chris Gillette, emergency manager for WRNMMC. He noted that in January 2014, there were at least a dozen active shooting incidents at schools and on campuses nationwide. Most recently, in late January, an active shooter incident occurred at the Columbia Mall, Md., leaving three dead. "It could happen anywhere," Gillette said.

To ensure readiness for any emergency, training is necessary, he continued. Both the hospital and the installation prepare for and participate in numerous of emergency preparedness drills year round.

"The expectation for our patients and visitors coming to this facility is that in the event of a crisis, disaster or active shooter, we know what to do," Gillette said. "We're going to ensure their safety while they're in our buildings. We're going to take care of them in all facets."

The installation is required to conduct four major exercises each fiscal year, including a hurricane disaster response drill, known as HURREX, which takes place in the spring, said Janelle Massiatte, NSAB's installation training director. Massiatte noted the base also recently implemented familiarization tours by inviting local emergency responders inside the facility,



The Journal file photos

**On Feb. 27, Walter Reed Bethesda will again participate in a Code White (Active Shooter) Drill, testing its security posture.**

such as state and county law enforcement and park police. Should a disaster occur, those first responders will be acquainted with the layout of the base.

"We work in a collaborative environment with our tenants, and try to piggyback exercise opportunities with each other, and make them integrated," Massiatte said. "At the end of the day, we all have the same goal: to keep

our folks safe, secure and prepared."

WRNMMC is also required to publish an annual training plan, and is required to conduct two major emergency preparedness exercises each calendar year, Gillette said. After all training evolutions, both the hospital

See **DRILL** page 8



# Accountability Actions in Sexual Assault Cases

Several national papers ran a wire service article this weekend that analyzed sex crimes reported in Japan between 2005 and early 2013. The article made it clear that military leaders recognize that sexual assault is a crime that destroys trust, divides teams and degrades the military's operational effectiveness. Unfortunately, the article provides numbers without context or background. Without rebutting the article point by point, I want to raise a few issues that should be considered.

First, it's important to note that there are multiple offenses covered under Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, ranging from rape to non-penetrating contact offenses, such as groping. Second, each case is judged on its own merits, and if there is a conviction, the sentencing is awarded based on the unique facts in that case.

The article might lead Sailors to think that commanders – particularly those in Japan – do not take their responsibility to make accountability decisions in sexual assault cases seriously. This is not true. In Japan, as in all other locations, every report of sexual assault is and will continue to be taken seriously, fully investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and presented to commanders for action as appropriate.

NCIS agents and commanders do not work alone. Judge Advocate General of the Navy, Vice Adm. Nan DeRenzi, has noted the involvement military lawyers have in the process. "Prosecuting attorneys and staff judge advocates work with NCIS and commanders every step of the way," she said, "offering legal advice on investigative actions and advising commanders on the appropriate disposition of cases."

A lot is happening, not just in Japan, but around the world to prevent sexual assault in our Navy. The truth is, only relatively recently did we begin to understand the magnitude of the challenge. As soon



as we learn, we act – and not just piece by piece, but along the entire continuum of care.

We've created changes in our reporting, investigative, and adjudicative procedures – changes which have earned critical trust and resulted in increased reporting, which deepen our understanding.

First and foremost, responsibility for fostering a climate intolerant of sexual assault lies with our commanding of-

ficers. They, along with their executive officers and senior enlisted advisors, have the responsibility of creating a professional command climate that will not tolerate, condone or ignore sexist language and behavior, hazing, sexual harassment or sexual assault. Over the past year, we have aggressively implemented a variety of new initiatives designed to improve victim confidence, including reforms to the military justice system, creation of dedicated legal support to victims, enhanced access to victim advocacy and increased training and awareness for the entire force.

If we are to continue to gain the trust of service members, then we must ensure that our process of investigation and adjudication not only protects the due process rights of the accused but also fully respects victims' rights, to include that the victim be protected from the accused, accorded every means of privacy and treated with dignity and respect.

And in fact, we've already seen a significant increase in reporting this year; a 46 percent increase since last year. That's good! That proves to me that the awareness level of this problem has already improved. Faith in our process is growing to the point that more victims are now coming forward. I'm hoping that sooner than later, the survey data will match the reporting data. Both numbers need to come down.

**Rear Adm. Sean Buck**  
**Director, Twenty-First Century**  
**Sailor Office**

## Bethesda Notebook

### Black History Month Observance

The Bethesda Multicultural Committee will host Walter Reed Bethesda's African-American/Black History Month observance on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the America Building atrium. There will be performances by staff members and free food samples. All are invited to attend. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Jason Zielske at 301-400-3542.

### Navy Medical Corps Ball

The 143rd Navy Medical Corps Ball is scheduled to be held March 8 at 6 p.m. in the Bethesda Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Md. All services, ranks and civilians are invited to attend. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker. For cost and ticket information, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/2014medicalcorpsball/> or 2014mcbb@gmail.com.

### Staff Talent Show

Today, there will be a staff talent show from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the America Building lobby. Resiliency and Psychological Health Service is sponsoring the show, and everyone is invited to attend.

### Prostate Cancer Support Group

The Prostate Cancer Support Group meets at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center the third Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be Feb. 20 from 1 to 2 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the America Building, River Conference Room (next to the Prostate Center), third floor. Spouses and partners are invited. Military ID is required for base access. Those without a military ID should call the Prostate Center at 301-319-2900 at least two business days prior to event for base access. For more information, contact retired Col. Jane Hudak at 301-319-2918 or [jane.l.hudak.ctr@health.mil](mailto:jane.l.hudak.ctr@health.mil).

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# Command Master Chief: 'What You Did Mattered'

## Prince Thanks Staff for Making WRNMMC Tour 'Amazing'

By Bernard S. Little  
WRNMMC Public Affairs  
staff writer

As Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL) of the nation's largest joint military medical center, Command Master Chief (CMC) Terry Prince said his most rewarding experiences were, "watching our team come together in early 2012 and absolutely nail the Joint Commission Accreditation..., [and] the change of command ceremony, where I was privileged to pass the command colors from Rear Adm. (Dr.) Alton L. Stocks to Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Jeffrey B. Clark."

Prince, the first SEL for Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), first took command in October 2011, a month before the official renaming ceremony saluting the integration of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center. He's departing WRNMMC to become the first Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA) for the Defense Health Agency (DHA), led by Air Force Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Douglas Robb.

"One of the most important decisions a commander makes is the selection of the person to be the command master chief," Stocks said. Master Chief Terry Prince was exactly the right person to be the CMC for WRNMMC during the journey of becoming a joint facility. His leadership, mentorship and common sense approach were key reasons for the successes of the command and the military, civilian, contract and volunteer employees," the admiral added.

"I can't believe how fast the time has gone," Prince said of the nearly two-and-a-half years he's served. As DHA's SEA, he explained the job will be similar to what he's done at WRNMMC, only on a broader scale.

"I will serve in an agency that is responsible for making the Military Health System more efficient by standardizing medical practices, to quote my new boss [Robb], 'Provide higher quality care at a lower cost, while increasing overall readiness.' We want to be accessible."

"I'll be working with another amazing group of people who have come together to do something never attempted in the history of military medicine," Prince said excitedly.

"The military is unique because our providers wear the



Photo by Katrina Skinner

**Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Command Master Chief Terry Prince (right) accepts the WRNMMC colors from Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks to pass to Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark, signifying the change in leadership at the flagship of military medicine on Sept. 19, 2013. Dr. Jonathan Woodson (left), assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, officiated the ceremony.**



Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

**Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Command Master Chief Terry Prince (right) meets with Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens, during the MCPON's visit to WRNMMC in 2013.**

cloth of our nation," said Prince, who served his first 20 years in the Navy as a dental technician doing direct patient care. His wife Jennifer, who also was a Sailor for 12 years, became a doctor (psychology) last year.

Prince said military providers have "earned the trust of patients by virtue of the fact they are in the military. Those who have come before us and those are currently serving, have put their blood, sweat and tears into military medicine, so people come to us because they trust us. We want them to stay with us because they want to be treated by us."

Proactively providing patient-friendly care and being responsive to the concerns and sentiments of patients are two ways to maintain and ensure the trust of beneficiaries, Prince said. "If you get good service

and you really like what you get, you'll come back for that service," he added.

Those with whom Prince worked with at WRNMMC, note his enthusiasm for the job, personable manner and mentorship among his qualities that stand out and will be missed when he leaves for his new assignment.

"Command Master Chief Prince is truly a joint senior enlisted leader," said Army Col. Risa D. Ware, director for nursing services at WRNMMC. "Everyone — Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines is a 'ship mate.' He was my 'battle buddy,' and I will truly miss having him around."

Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Meagan R. Orand agreed, "I admire him greatly and commend him on taking such an active interest in the lives and careers of all enlisted personnel at this facility. He makes us feel

as if we really matter and as if we can achieve the impossible in our careers."

"He cared about everything that was going on [with the] Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines," added Air Force Tech. Sgt. Bryan T. Konisiewicz, of the surgical intensive care unit. "He made an effort to include us [Airmen]. We're a very small part of the hospital; there's not many of us who work [here], but [Prince] made an effort to include us and he made us feel right at home."

Command Master Chief Prince worked with all of the Walter Reed Bethesda team. "We have more civilians here than we do active duty personnel, and civilians are really the ones who are going to be here through all of the ups and downs as [military personnel] deploy."

His respect and appreciation for civilians, contractors and volunteers at WRNMMC is reciprocated.

Cathryn DeBinder, a public affairs specialist at WRNMMC and the former civilian representative to its Board of Directors (BOD), described Prince as "an open-minded and a genuinely nice guy."

"He's fair-minded and equitable when discussing issues affecting civilians, military and other groups," DeBinder said.

Those sentiments about Prince are shared by David Rohrbaugh, the current civilian representative to the BOD and pharmacy coordinator at WRNMMC.

"I have found [Prince's] remarks and passion to be of the 'whole picture,'" Rohrbaugh said. "While his focus is obviously on his enlisted staff — of which he pushes for excellence, he is very aware of the need for working harmoniously with officers, civilians, contractors, volunteers and patients. He not only considers the organizational impact during discussions and decisions, he equally considers the human impact and the well-being of staff."

"Most admirable, CMC Prince may stand head and shoulders above nearly everyone, but he interacts at eye-level with all," Rohrbaugh added in reference to the SEL's 6-foot-8-inch stature.

A Milwaukee native, Prince jokingly says of his height, "I'm about 6-feet 9-inches in the Navy Working Uniform. This is an awesome advantage because I can see over the cubicles around the hospital, which always makes for a fun moment with staff. I often joke that people look up to me, whether they want to or not. Some fun times occurred at awards ceremonies where [former WRNMMC Chief of Staff] Army Col. Ramona Fiorey, who stood all of 5 feet, seemed to always end up next to me."

Prince said he enjoyed the daily interactions he had with members of the Walter Reed Bethesda "One Team," and thanks "every person here for all they did to make this tour so amazing. I will never forget our pledge at Walter Reed Bethesda, 'What I Do Matters,' except for one change, 'What You Did Mattered.'"

Reflecting back on WRNMMC's successful accreditation by the Joint Commission and the medical center's first change of command, Prince said, "Those days I went home and thought, 'we're going to be just fine; everything is going to work out. It always does when people just come together, and we do it well.'"

Prince said he's inspired everyday by "the young Soldier who has two babies yet works the night shift to take care of our heroes, and the Sailor who serves in Afghanistan because he wants his family to be free. They sacrifice so much in defense in that freedom. I'm inspired by the history of those who have worn the cloth of our nation, and I feel like I owe it to them to do my best."



# Emergency Services Always Call Back

**By Ryan Hunter**  
NSAB Public Affairs  
staff writer

"[Naval Support Activity Bethesda] (NSAB) accounts for the most accidentally dropped 911 calls from any business or industry in Montgomery County," said NSAB Emergency Manager Ron Kunz.

Kunz believes the problem, which caused 68 dropped emergency calls between November and December 2013, stems from base residents and staff who attempt to reach a telephone line outside of the base by dialing the extension, 9-9-1. This accident can be easily fixed through a simple explanation to dispatchers who answer the call; however many dialers don't.

"When somebody dials 911, they'll get a dispatcher and often they will realize their mistake and hang the phone up [before saying anything]," said Kyle O'Connor the 911 dispatcher for NSAB. "The big problem is that it doesn't just affect us. Depending upon where you are on the base, if you dial 911 it goes to

the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)."

Montgomery County emergency service operators must receive a response from every 911 call they receive, no matter their length or purpose. If an individual reaches their line and disconnects, dispatchers are required to immediately redial the number.

"We don't know, if you call and hang up, that it's not an emergency," said Sue Wooten, the 911 coordinator for the MCPD. "We don't know if the caller is incapacitated and can't speak or if something else is going on that requires our assistance, so we have to follow up."

If the MCPD cannot establish contact with the original caller, they will reach out to emergency services on board the base who will continue the efforts. Utilizing the outgoing number of the original caller, NSAB emergency services will gather information, such as the location and name of the caller, and attempt to contact them as well. If for a second time the original dialer does not answer, NSAB dispatchers will

send patrol cars to the caller's location to investigate. "Contact has to be made with the person that made the call," stated O'Connor.

"We drop everything to answer the [emergency line] phone. It takes priority," said Kunz. "But it takes up a lot of manpower and time to do so, and it wastes valuable resources to investigate dropped phone calls. It [hinders] us from responding to a real emergency."

"I can see how it happens," said Kunz, who admits to nearly making the mistake several times himself. "We understand it is an accident, so no one gets in trouble or anything like that. We just want personnel to inform the dispatcher that there is no emergency. If they do that, then there is no problem."

Every 911 call made on base, accidental or otherwise, is recorded, explained O'Connor. "They are all tracked and the Walter Reed commanders and the NSAB commanders view them. So when an accident occurs, you're better off explaining the situation over the phone



Photo by Ryan Hunter

**If a 911 call is made to emergency services and operators are unable to speak directly with the caller for any reason, Naval Support Activity Bethesda police officers, like those pictured above, will be dispatched to investigate.**

immediately rather than later when a dispatcher arrives or a superior finds out."

While the 9-9-1 extension, a standard number used on every military base in the nation, cannot be changed, steps have been taken to lessen its impact on MCPD services.

In the future, all 911 calls made on base will first be routed

to NSAB emergency services dispatchers. However, regardless of whether accidental emergency calls are directed to response operators for the county or for the base, staff and residents are advised to stay on the line and explain their situation or respond to an emergency services return call.

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# WRB Celebrates Army Nurses and Chaplains

By Cat DeBinder  
WRNMMC Public Affairs staff writer

Honoring the selfless service, dedication and sacrifice of Army chaplains and nurses, the Walter Reed Bethesda community observed Four Chaplains Day and the 113th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps (ANC) on Feb. 3.

Congress established Four Chaplains Day in 1988 by a unanimous act to recognize the heroic sacrifice of four U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others after the United States Army Transport Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U-boat in the North Atlantic on Feb. 3, 1943. Those chaplains, 1st Lts. (Rev.) George L. Fox, (Rabbi) Alexander D. Goode, (Father) John P. Washington and (Rev.) Clark V. Poling, went down with the



Artwork by Walter Reed Bethesda's Marketing Department salutes the selfless sacrifice of the Four Chaplains of the United States Army Transport Dorchester, whose heroics were recognized Feb. 3 during Four Chaplains Day at the medical center.

ship in prayer after giving away their life jackets and helping others off of the vessel. Of the nearly 1,000 crew and passengers aboard the Dorchester when it was

torpedoed 71 years ago, only 230 were rescued. The four chaplains who went down with the ship became known as the "Immortal Chaplains." Chaplain (Col.) Robert

L. Powers Jr., chief of the Department of Pastoral Care at WRNMMC, said although the chaplains were all different faiths, they came together that fateful day



Army Col. Risa Ware (left), director of nursing service at Walter Reed Bethesda, and 2nd Lt. Laura Schrader, the most junior Army Nurse Corps (ANC) nurse at the medical center, cut the cake celebrating the ANC's 113th anniversary during a celebration on Feb. 3.

for one common purpose. He explained he first heard of their story in 1989. "Their personal courage and selfless sacrifice have been a constant standard for me since that day," said Powers. "They had different backgrounds and different faiths, yet they

all stood together for a common purpose. These chaplains are an enduring symbol of unity, hope and selfless sacrifice," he added. A second cake was also cut during the Feb. 3 observance, this one celebrating the ANC's 113th anniversary. See **NURSE** page 8



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**FIND NEW ROADS**



# Leading from the Front: Newest Members of SAMC Vow to Serve Soldiers, Community

**By Craig Coleman**  
Northern Regional  
Medical Command  
Public Affairs

Two non-commissioned officers (NCO), Staff Sgt. Justin D. Reichenbach and Staff Sgt. Freddy L. Drayton, were inducted into the Command Sergeant Major Jack L. Clark Jr. Chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) in an induction ceremony held at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Feb. 5.

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, named for the most decorated Soldier in U.S. Army history, is an elite organization of U.S. Army NCOs who are leaders in the Army and in their communities. Leadership, achievement and performance, as well as a desire to improve the lives of Soldiers, are the hallmarks of SAMC.

The Jack L. Clark Jr. Chapter is named for the 13th Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Health Services Command and Army Medical

Command.

The Chapter President, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin D. Conner, said after the ceremony that induction gives non-commissioned Soldiers a chance to make the Army even stronger. "As non-commissioned officers, you are inducted into the NCO Corps," Conner said. "By being inducted into this elite group, you are better able to positively impact your organization, the command and the community, as well."

The Clark chapter is very active in the local community. They sponsor the "Partnership in Education" with Woodlawn Elementary School in Alexandria, Va. During the school year, SAMC joins guidance counselors to sponsor "Fun Lunch Fridays," where Soldiers mentor students. The event offers students an opportunity to meet with outstanding role models.

Fort Belvoir Community Hospital Junior Enlisted Association also participates, giving junior enlisted Soldiers an opportunity to mentor under



U.S. Army Photo

**Staff Sgt. Justin D. Reichenbach (left) and Staff Sgt. Freddy L. Drayton (right) speak with Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commanding general, Northern Regional Medical Command after their induction into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.**

the leadership of elite NCOs. SAMC members also participated in the 7th annual Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps High School Drill Competition as judges and mentors.

The chapter worked well with youth in the community, but it also acknowledged the

services and sacrifice of the Soldiers who preceded them in the ranks. They walked with Veterans organizations as they participated in the Commander-in-Chief's Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, served in the Non-Commissioned Of-

ficer Association Color Guard at the ceremony and presented the association's wreath to the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"The extension of what you do in the community is re-

See **SAMC** page 10

# National Day of Prayer: 'We Have Much in Common'

**By Sharon Renee Taylor**  
WRNMMC Public Affairs  
staff writer

Walter Reed Bethesda held the medical center's annual prayer breakfast in observance of the National Day of Prayer, Feb. 6.

Service members, civilians and volunteers gathered together in the Warrior Cafe to build community through prayer, lifting up state and national leaders as well as local leaders, during the prayer breakfast.

"My spiritual journey, my spiritual life has carried me to various places [to] talk to different people, but I discovered that they're just like us," explained Navy Chaplain (Capt.) Roosevelt H. Brown, chaplain of Navy Medicine and special assistant to the Navy Surgeon General. Brown was the keynote speaker. He attended his first Hindu service as department chief of pastoral care at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in 2011.

The Navy chaplain reflected on services he attended with his Franciscan (Catholic) friends, at a mosque, as well as those held at his own church,



**Walter Reed Bethesda Director Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark, left, thanks Navy Chaplain (Capt.) Roosevelt H. Brown, Chaplain of Navy Medicine and Special Assistant to the Navy Surgeon General, for serving as keynote speaker for the National Day of Prayer Breakfast, Feb. 6.**

First Baptist Church of D.C. "I've discovered they still said the same prayers," Brown said, explaining those prayers were to stay in contact with God, for their family members and to give thanks.

He told the audience, despite the differences in religious faith, race, rank and service, "we have much in common." Prayer is one of those intimate ways of relating to God, and reaffirms that we as human beings are connected

to one another through love, Brown added.

Quoting a speech given by President Barack Obama at last year's annual National Prayer Breakfast held in Washington, D.C., Brown said, "It says something about us, as a nation, as a people, that every year for 61 years now, this great prayerful tradition has endured. It says something about us that every year, in times of triumph and times of tragedy, in calm and



Photos by Sharon Renee Taylor

**Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Kimberly Cain, of the Department of Pastoral Care, offers a prayer for local leadership at the National Day of Prayer Breakfast, Feb. 6.**

in crisis, we can come together as brothers and sisters and as children of God. Every year, in the midst of all our busy and noisy lives, we set aside one

morning to gather as one community, united in prayer."

Ginger Ridley, of Healthcare

See **PRAYER** page 8



# Assistive Technology Department Expands to Meet Patient Needs

**By Cat DeBinder**  
WRNMMC Public  
Affairs staff writer

To improve services to patients, the Assistive Technology Department at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) has expanded their scope, doubled their office space, and added a number of subject matter expert volunteers.

According to the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, assistive technology is defined as “any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.”



Photo by Cat DeBinder

**Walter Reed Bethesda's 3D Medical Applications Center Department, working with the Assistive Technology Department, can fabricate a variety of items with resins, gypsum and titanium to provide assistive technology equipment to patients.**

Amanda Reinsfelder, assistive technology professional (ATP), said they now have eight active volunteers, includ-

ing a biostatistician and outcomes specialist, a marketing specialist, an outreach consultant and a program development

advisor as part of their expanded team.

“Many of our volunteers are performing high-powered work,” said Reinsfelder. “They [collectively] put in about 45 hours a week.”

As an ATP, Reinsfelder and Mark Lindholm, another ATP at WRNMMC, both provide service by analyzing the needs of consumers with disabilities and assist in the selection of appropriate assistive technology for their needs.

“Our job responsibilities at WRNMMC include working with therapists and health-care providers to determine the most appropriate tool to help a patient accomplish a goal or task,” said Reinsfelder. “We help the patient ob-

tain those tools, if not already owned, and ensure the patient is competent in using them.”

These items are designed to be simple and functional and include anything from a knee-powered sewing machine to a thumb-powered computer mouse or a device, to enable someone with one hand to take their own medicines, said Lindholm.

To help design, create and construct these devices, Reinsfelder and Lindholm work closely with the WRNMMC Radiology's 3D Medical Applications Center (MAC) Department's Director of Services, 3D MAC, Peter Liacouras, Ph.D. “3D MAC can fabricate a variety of items with resins,

gypsum and titanium,” he said.

Reinsfelder added patients may have a variety of needs. “An inpatient may need an adaptation to have independent control over medication. An outpatient may need an adaptation to independently access a computer or to complete school assignments. We work hard to help people accomplish their goals with tools they already have and tools customized to meet their individual needs,” she said.

“Assistive technology allows people to do things they might not otherwise be able to do,” she said.

For more information about the Assistive Technology services, call 301-295-8548.

# Remote Control Program helps Wounded Warriors Take Flight

**By Ryan Hunter**  
NSAB Public Affairs  
staff writer

“When you grew up you wanted to fly didn't you? Everybody does,” said Red Cross Volunteer William Kahl. While members of his Wounded Warrior Remote Controlled (RC) Helicopter Program don't ever leave the ground, Kahl believes they experience, “the next best thing.”

Every Tuesday patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center convene in the Occupational Therapy Department to practice on simulators, perform model maintenance and converse about a variety of RC aircrafts.

“It's tough to learn this by yourself,” said Kahl. “You really need someone to help you out and I discovered that the hard way.” When first attempting to enter the world of RC Aircraft, he claimed to feel overwhelmed by both his lack of piloting skill and mechanical knowledge. “You really have to learn to master those two things at the same time. Once you get that



Photo by Ryan Hunter

**While not permitted to fly on the base, Sgt. Jamie Varga learns how to program a remote control for one of the many models during the Wounded Warrior Remote Controlled Helicopter Program.**

together you'll be able to enjoy it. That's what the class tries to help us do.”

Kahl instructs wounded warriors how to assemble and repair models from individual parts and pieces; a task he ad-

mits is neither easy, nor cheap. The helicopters used in the class are hobby grade, which means they are more complex and expensive than ones commonly found in toy stores. Most of the at-

tendees to the class use models with 24 to 35 inch diameters blades that can range in price from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

According to Kahl, the hobby's high price of entry typically sends

people running away from what he admits is a “rich man's pastime.” However, due to the generosity of his connections through the Red Cross, local hobby stores and a variety of non-profit or-

ganizations, he's able to keep his class attendees well trained and amply stocked for free.

Crashes for beginners are inevitable and expensive, said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (HN3) Ian McClanahan who has, in his 5 months participating, built two different helicopters and a gas powered airplane. “However, with this program we have a vast collection of parts and supplies. [Kahl] actually looks forward to us breaking aircraft, that way we come back and work on them.”

To teach flying skills, Kahl supplies the group sessions with several high-end gaming laptops in order to run computer flight simulator programs. Utilizing special attachments identical to radio controllers, everyone involved in the program gets the chance to hone their skills before taking expensive equipment to the skies.

Donated copies of the flight program are supplied to those interested, and the class and frequently holds simulated flying sessions online.

See **FLIGHT** page 10



# DRILL

Continued from 1

and the base assess the exercise, to identify what worked and what didn't, so they can improve upon the next training, and enhance preparedness.

In the event of a real-life Code White, staff should first ensure the safety of patients and visitors. Whether you're outside or inside a building, you should immediately shelter in place. If you're inside, secure the area by locking and barricading doors, turn off radios and computer monitors, close blinds and block windows. Also, silence cell phones and keep yourself and others out of sight by taking adequate cover, behind concrete walls or filing cabinets.

On the day of the drill, as a reminder to patients and visitors, flyers will be handed out at the

gates and parking garages. There will be posters throughout clinics, leading up to the event, and on the day of, also as a reminder. During the drill, staff and patients can expect to see police lights and sirens, as well as some law enforcement activity, but should expect there to be minimal, if any, impact on patient care and daily operations.

"Our goal is patient care. Our goal is to be patient-friendly, and to provide world-class care," Gillette said. He added clearing out hallways, turning lights off and finding safe havens are paramount to the success of the drill. "Our staff are responsible for taking care of patients and visitors here ... however, [during the exercise], we do provide patient care, so patient treatments will still continue."

Even though a drill is taking place, everyone is encouraged, as usual, to report any suspicious activity, by dialing Security, 301-295-1246, or 777 from any installation landline.

# PRAYER

Continued from 6

Operations, said she rose early Feb. 6, arriving a full hour earlier than she is scheduled to work, to attend the 7 a.m., prayer breakfast at WRNMMC, with her colleague Kim Shropshire.

"It's really important to me to have a strong prayer life I felt like I just wanted to come and celebrate with my co-workers and people that I work with," Ridley explained.

Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Leslie Sias led the prayer for state and national leaders. "Grant them wisdom," Sias prayed. "Guide their decisions each day that will bring hope and a brighter future for the least, the lost and the left out."

"It's not always easy to lead, for leaders are called first to serve — to serve one another — and we serve you, God," Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Kimberly Cain implored for local leadership. "Give them cool hearts and minds as they lead your people."

"We thank you God, for the opportunity to gather together in peace and prosperity," prayed Army Chaplain (Col.) Robert Powers, department chief of Pastoral Care at WRNMMC.

Walter Reed Bethesda Director Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark addressed the audience gathered at the prayer breakfast. Clark said spirituality is an important aspect of the Prosperity Plan Workbook, designed to help staff at the medical center attain their goals.

Held on the first Thursday of February annually since 1953, the President of the United States hosts the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. Once called the Presidential Prayer Breakfast, it became known as the National Prayer Breakfast in 1970.

# NURSE

Continued from 5

brating the selfless service and compassionate patient care Army nurses have been providing for 113 years, since Congress formally established the ANC on Feb. 2, 1901. This year's theme was "Everyday Heroes in Healthcare."

"It is inspiring to have a hand in putting together a ceremony that recognizes the compassionate care that nurses bring to health care," said Army Capt. Lisa Taylor, from 5-West, who helped organize the event.

"It is great to see such a nice turnout to honor the history and celebrate the hard work that nurses do," added 1st Lt. Maura Lang, a WRNMMC nurse who also helped organize the celebration.

Col. Risa Ware, director of nursing services at WRNMMC, and 2nd Lt. Laura Schrader, the most junior ANC nurse, cut the ANC anniversary cake. Ware explained Army nurses at Walter Reed Bethesda provide "patient-friendly, compassionate care every day to all of those we are privileged to serve, the nation's heroes and their families."

In a video saluting the ANC, Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, the U.S. Army surgeon general, said, "For 113 years, members of the Army Nurse Corps have served our nation without hesitation. Since 1901, Army nurses have provided responsive, innovative and evidenced-based nursing care," said Horoho, the first female and first Army nurse to be the Army surgeon general and lead the U.S. Army Medical Command. "I am extremely proud of your focus, dedication and your support for our nation's defenders, families and retirees as you continue to elevate our care with a patient-caring touch system," she concluded.

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# FLIGHT

Continued from 7

Gathering in groups as large as 10, participants can fly side-by-side and offer critiques and advice to advance each other's skills.

These simulated airfields are the testing ground for fledgling pilots, like first time flier Spec. Tomas Carrasquel. Originally an Army mechanic for Black Hawk helicopters, Carrasquel found himself behind the controls and airborne for the first time after only a few minutes of instruction. "I want to keep trying. I am going to get a helicopter soon," he said.

The class focuses on a hands-off approach to instruction, opting more to see veteran fliers gently nudging novices in the right direction. It's common to see a participant crash in the simulator and receive praise and suggestions for improvement from a colleague nearby. "It's kind of like a little community," said Kahl. "It's a nice little place where we know one another and help each other out."

While not a therapist, Kahl believes having a positive hobby like the one offered in the helicopter program can be beneficial to those suffering both physical and mental disabilities. "I had one guy who lost his dominant hand in a



Photos by Ryan Hunter

**While the parts and helicopters are provided for free, participants in the Wounded Warrior Remote Controlled Helicopter Program, like Spec. Tomas Carrasquel, spend hours honing their piloting skills using a flight simulator program.**

firefight, express interest in the class," he said. "I never thought [he] was going to be able to fly with just one arm, but he shocked me. He flies better with one hand than a lot of the guys do with two hands. What I thought was his biggest challenge turned out to be one of

his biggest successes."

HN3 Ian McClanahan hopes to use the experiences he's gained in the class to turn his hobby into a career after he retires from the military. "In 2015 the Federal Aviation Administration is going to release rules about



**While it focuses mainly on Helicopters, the program works with a variety of remote controlled aircraft, like this gas powered airplane constructed by Spec. Willbur Robinson (left) and HN3 Ian McClanahan (right).**

how you can use [drones and other remote controlled devices] commercially," he said. "I could definitely see myself working with a company using helicopters with cameras to get a new angle on car crashes, or to inspect the underside of bridges. They're doing that in Japan right now."

The Wounded Warrior RC Helicopter Program is held every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the America Building Occupational Therapy Department. To find out more about the program contact Kahl at [Wjkahlssmd@nestscape.com](mailto:Wjkahlssmd@nestscape.com) or 301-318-8552.

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U.S. Army Photo

**Soldiers in vintage and modern uniforms celebrate the contributions of non-commissioned officers in the history of the United States during the Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Clark Jr. Chapter Sergeant Audie Murphy Club induction ceremony.**

## SAMC

Continued from 6

markable," said Northern Regional Medical Command Commanding General Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, who was the presiding officer at the induction ceremony. "It shows that our commitment to the community doesn't end when you take off the uniform."

The leaders of the Clark chapter hope to grow that commitment as its membership increases. "It's very important to extend the membership to more leaders," Sgt. 1st Class Gloria D. Butler, Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Clark Jr. Chapter vice president said. "We know they're out there, and it's very important to recruit them so they can help us make a bigger impact in the community and for our Soldiers."





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